

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

Issue: March 2010

Mars Science News

Reminder: MEPAG #22, March 17-18, 2010, Monrovia, California

The next MEPAG meeting is fast approaching. The second information circular was distributed and included a draft of the agenda and logistics information. Note that March 2 is the deadline for the MEPAG room block at the Double Tree Hotel. Also, if you have not done so already, please RSVP to Joyce Pulliam at joyce.n.pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov so that we can prepare for you.

MEPAG Coordinators

Decadal Survey Update

This is an abstract of Steve Squyres' latest message to the community regarding the planetary decadal survey, dated January 28th 2010. The full text of this newsletter is at: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/CurrentProjects/ssb_052412#letters

Dear Colleague:

This is the fifth newsletter to the community regarding SolarSystem2012, the planetary science decadal survey. The key points in this newsletter are these:

1. Assessment by the panels of the key science goals for the coming decade is nearing completion.
2. The Steering Group has identified and focused on several important crosscutting issues, including launch vehicle costs, availability of plutonium-238, and mission-related technology development.
3. Our studies of candidate missions are proceeding well. Several recent changes to the list of studies have been made.
4. Decadal survey sessions are planned for the upcoming LPSC and AbSciCon meetings.

As always, more details, including archived webcasts of meetings, agendas for past and future meetings, and materials presented to the Steering Group and panels, are available at the SolarSystem2012 website:

Best wishes,
Steve Squyres
SolarSystem2012 Chair

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
3/1	Laboratory Planetary Sciences abstracts deadline
3/11	2nd International Planetary Dunes Workshop abstract deadline
3/31	The Meeting of the Americas abstracts deadline
4/8	Nordlingen 2010 abstracts deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>First Quarter, 2010</i>		
	March 1-5, 2010 The Woodlands, Texas, USA	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference #41 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/
	March 14-17, 2010 Honolulu, Hawaii, USA	ASCE Earth and Space 2010 Conference There will be 15 symposia, including Exploration and Utilization of Extraterrestrial Bodies and NASA/ARO/ASCE Workshop on Granular Materials in Lunar and Martian Exploration. http://content.asce.org/conferences/earthspace2010/index.html
	March 17-18, 2010 Monrovia, California, USA	Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG #22) http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meeting/mar-10/index.html
	March 28-April 2, 2010 Valley of Chamonix, FRANCE	Planet Mars III Workshop – Les Houches Contact Oliver Witasse at owitasse@rssi.esa.int http://www.rssi.esa.int/index.php?project=MARSEXPRES&page=planet_mars3
<i>Second Quarter, 2010</i>		
	April 12-14, 2010 Boulder, Colorado, USA	Decadal Survey Satellites Panel
	April 14-16, 2010 Boulder, Colorado, USA	Decadal Survey Mars Panel
	April 19-23, 2010 El Paso, Texas, USA	First International Conference on Mars Sedimentology and Stratigraphy A week-long conference including a 2-day field trip to look at the Mars analog sedimentary rocks that have filled the western part of the Permian Basin. http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/mars2010/index.shtml
	April 21-23, 2010 Boulder, Colorado, USA	Decadal Survey Inner Planets Panel

	April 26-28, 2010 Knoxville, Tennessee, USA	Decadal Survey Primitive Bodies Panel
	Update April 26-29, 2010 League City, Texas, USA	Astrobiology Science Conference 2010 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2010/abscicon20101st.shtml
	May 2-7, 2010 Vienna, AUSTRIA	European Geosciences Union (EGU) – General Assembly 1010
	May 3-6, 2010 Monastir, TUNISIA	Astronomical Data Analysis (ADA6) http://www.aset.org.tn/conf/ADA6
	May 4-7, 2010 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	Herschel First Results Symposium (ESLAB 2010) http://herschel.esac.esa.int/FirstResultsSymposium.shtml
	May 5-7, 2010 Boston, Massachusetts, USA	Decadal Survey Giant Planets Panel (or Woods Hole, MA)
	Update May 11, 2010 Pasadena, California USA	Next 2001 Mars Odyssey PSG Jet Propulsion Laboratory Contact Jeff Plaut (plaut@jpl.nasa.gov)
	Update May 18-21, 2010 Alamosa, Colorado, USA	Second International Planetary Dunes Workshop: Planetary Analogs – Integrating Models, Remote Sensing, and Field Data Abstract deadline March 11, 2010 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2010
	May 24-28, 2010 Breckenridge, Colorado USA	Meteoroids 2010 http://www.cora.nwra.com/Meteoroids2010/
	May 25-26, 2010 Provo, Utah, USA	Io Workshop http://pirlwww.lpl.arizona.edu/~jani/ioworkshop2010/
	May 25-27, 2010 Washington, DC, USA	Decadal Survey Steering Group
	June 1–August 9, 2010 Houston, Texas, USA	Lunar Exploration Summer Intern Program Hosted by Lunar Planetary Institute (LPI) Contact Dr. David Kring at kring@lpi.usra.edu http://www.lpi.usra.edu/lunar_intern/
	June 2-4, 2010 Kiruna, SWEDEN	Mars Express Science Working Team Meeting Contact Oliver Witasse at owitasse@rssd.esa.int
	June 8-10, 2010 Golden, Colorado, USA	First Joint Meeting of Space Resources Roundtable and Planetary & Terrestrial Mining Sciences Symposium For more information, please visit the SRR web page at: http://www.isruinfo.com/ and open the SRR/PTMSS 1 st Announcement pdf file.
	June 8-12, 2010 Oslo, NORWAY	International Polar Year Oslo Science Conference http://www.ipy-osc.no/
	June 12-13, 2010 Barcelona, SPAIN	Planetary Protection Short Course http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/

	June 13-18, 2010 Knoxville, Tennessee, USA	<p>Goldschmidt Conference http://www.goldschmidt2010.org/ Contact: Hap McSween at mcsween@utk.edu Abstracts submission deadline February 21, 2010 Online registration deadline May 18, 2010</p> <p>Session 01d: The New Mars: Geochemistry of a Neighbor Planet Conveners: Dave Des Marais (NASA Ames) and Scott McLennan (Stony Brook)</p> <p>Keynote: Lisa Pratt (Indiana) Mars is the one other planet in the solar system that apparently had a climate most similar to that of Earth. Mars differentiated very early into a core, mantle and crust; it preserved an ancient geological record that has no parallel on Earth; and it evolved mostly if not completely without plate tectonics. An early hydrological cycle sustained precipitation, streams and lakes. Later, volcanism, impacts, groundwater, and ice interacted at least locally. Liquid water participated in rock weathering reactions, such as iron and sulfur oxidation, that created distinctive weathering regimes and potentially sustained life. Methane in the atmosphere apparently requires a strong subsurface source(s). Conditions therefore could have supported life sometime in the past and perhaps could even sustain it today. This session will highlight recent geochemical investigations that are unveiling "the new Mars" and will lead ultimately to determining its geochemical evolution and whether life ever developed.</p>
	June 14-16, 2010 Brittany, FRANCE	<p>Faraday Discussion 147: Chemistry of the Planets Saint Jacut de la Mer. Contact: Ian Sims, ian.sims@univ-rennes1.fr http://www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCConferences/FD147/index.asp</p>
	June 14-18, 2010 Barcelona, SPAIN	<p>7th International Planetary Probe Workshop 2010 (IPPW-7) http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/</p>
	June 22-23, 2010 Flagstaff, Arizona, USA	<p>The Annual Meeting of Planetary Geologic Mappers Contact: Les Bleamaster (lbleamas@psi.edu)</p>
	June 25-27, 2010 Nordlingen, GERMANY	<p>Nordlingen 2010: The Ries Crater, the Moon, and the Future of Human Space Exploration Deadline for abstract submission is April 8, 2010, 5:00 p.m. (CDT) Deadline for registration is June 1, 2010 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/nordlingen2010/nordlingen20101st.shtml</p>
<i>Third Quarter, 2010</i>		
	July 2010	Third MSL Landing Site Engineering Assessment Workshop
	July 5-9, 2010 Hyderabad, INDIA	<p>Laboratory Planetary Sciences at AOGS 2010 Call for abstracts – deadline March 1, 2010 http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2010</p>

	July 18–25, 2010 Bremen, GERMANY	38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly Topics: - SC B: The Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System - SC C: The Upper Atmospheres of the Earth and Planets Including Reference Atmospheres - SC D: Space Plasmas in the Solar System, Including Planetary Magnetospheres - SC F : Astrobiology and Space Science, Including Habitability on Mars : Past, Present & Future - Panel on Planetary Protection (PPP) Contact: cospar@cosparhq.cnes.fr http://www.cospar2010.org/ or http://www.cospar-assembly.org
	July 26-30, 2010 New York, New York, USA	73rd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Dr. Denton Ebel http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	July 26-30, 2010 Pasadena, California, USA	2010 Sagan Exoplanet Summer Workshop http://nexsci.caltech.edu/workshop/2010/index.shtml
	August 8-13, 2010 Foz do Iguassu, BRAZIL	The Meeting of the Americas Session P04: Ice Processes of Terrestrial Bodies Polar and ice process vary widely among solar system terrestrial bodies. Earth is dominated by H2O ice, while Mars is dominated by CO2 ice. The icy satellites of the outer planets are composed of H2O, N2, and CH4. Yet many of these processes are common to multiple bodies, e.g. the CO2 gas jets observed on Mars may be driven by similar processes as the jets observed on Enceladus and Triton. The session seeks to include studies that include laboratory experiments under planetary conditions, models and observations of ice processes. Abstracts due March 31, 2010. http://www.aqu.org/meetings/ja10/program/scientific_session_search.php?
	September 2010	Fourth MSL Landing Site Community Workshop
	September 7-10, 2010 Exeter, UNITED KINGDOM	ExoClimes 2010 Exploring the Diversity of Planetary Atmospheres For information: http://www.exoclimes.org Contact exoclimes@astro.ex.ac.uk
	September 19-25, 2010 Rome, ITALY	European Planetary Science Congress 2010 http://meetings.copernicus.org/epsc2010/
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2010</i>		
	October 4-8, 2010 Sapporo, JAPAN	5th Alfven Conference: Plasma Interaction with Non-Magnetized Planets/Moons and Its Influence on Planetary Evolution http://www.ep.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/~alfven5/
	October 3-8, 2010 Pasadena, California, USA	42nd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 31– November 3, 2010 Denver, Colorado, USA	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	November 8-9, 2010 NETHERLANDS	Mars Express Science Working Team Meeting joint with Venus Express Science Team Meeting Contact Oliver Witasse at owitasse@rssd.esa.int

	December 13–17, 2010 San Francisco, California, USA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2011</i>		
	March 2011	Fifth MSL Landing Site Community Workshop
	August 2011 Greenwich England, UNITED KINGDOM	74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Gretchen Benedix http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	Update October 2-7, 2011 Nantes, FRANCE	43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS & 2011 European Planetary Science Congress Contact Olivier Grasset at Olivier.Grasset@univ-nantes.fr http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 9–12, 2011 Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 12–16, 2011 San Francisco, California, USA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2012</i>		
	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Trevor Ireland http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	The 34th International Geological Congress http://www.33igc.org/
<i>2013</i>		
	July 2013 Pasadena, California, USA	8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/ meetings:

Good Friday	4/2/2010	4/22/2011	4/6/2012	3/29/2013	4/18/2014
Rosh Hashanah	9/9/2010	9/29/2011	9/17/2012	9/5/2013	9/25/2014
Yom Kippur	9/18/2010	10/8/2011	9/26/2012	9/14/2013	10/4/2014
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/25/2010	11/24/2011	11/22/2012	11/28/2013	11/27/2014
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/11/2010	10/10/2011	10/8/2012	10/14/2013	10/13/2014

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Joyce Pulliam, Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-393-0444.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.